



US Forest Service

Rim Fire Recovery

Weekly Update

General Background:

Date: July 8, 2014

The Rim Fire started in August 2013 and eventually burned 257,314 acres, including 154,530 acres on the Stanislaus National Forest. Burned Area Emergency Response work to address immediate hazards has been completed with the exception of storm patrol and monitoring. The Stanislaus National Forest has produced:

1. An environmental assessment (EA) for hazard tree removal along 194 miles of high use Forest Service roads, administrative and recreation facilities, and areas adjacent to private infrastructure. The EA includes 10,315 acres of NFS lands, of which 8,986 acres are along roads. The Rim HT EA Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact were signed on April 25, 2014. Implementing contracts for this project have been awarded.
2. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Rim Fire Recovery Project proposes to lessen the potential for future catastrophic fire by reducing the fuel loading and capture the perishable economic commodity value of the fire killed trees through timber salvage. The proposed DEIS includes work on 44,461 acres of NFS lands, of which 16,315 acres are along roads. The Draft EIS 30-day public comment period ended on June 16, 2014. The draft EIS is available online at http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=43033. A decision is scheduled for August 2014.

Update for the week of July 8, 2014:

Director:

- Focus is on completing the Final EIS by the end of August.

ID Team Lead:

- Various sub-teams will be up and running this week.
- Collaborating with the PSW Research Station on their proposed experiments as outlined in the DEIS.

Engineering:

- Repair work on the Clavey Bridge has been completed.

Partnership:

- The partnership coordinator is working with a geneticist on seed collection for the reforestation effort. She will propose to local school officials an adopt-a-forest program that will teach children about forestry, cone and seed production and reforestation.
- The California Conservation Corps, Student Conservation Association and the Youth Conservation Corps are rebuilding fence line. NPS sawyers and foresters will be assisting crews who are working along our joint boundary.

Silviculture:

- This Thursday a technical workshop on Rim Fire reforestation will be held in Sacramento.
- Medicinal plants, as identified by the Mi-Wuk tribe, will be given consideration during the reforestation process.

Communications:

- Nearly 20,000 copies of the first run of the Rim Fire Recovery Update newspaper haven been delivered; 10,000 of those copies will be sent as an insert to Sonora's "Union Democrat."
- The Rim Fire Recovery webpage will have links to feature articles highlighted in the newspaper. Feature articles will be posted online at <http://www.3forests.us/rimfire> as well.



Please contact the Rim Fire Recovery Office if you need more newspapers on the districts. 2,000 spare copies from the July run are ready for distribution. Articles for August are well underway and will feature such things as the fencing project, fire ecology, salvage logging, fire adapted communities and the awesome community spirit that has arisen as a result of the fire.

Questions about Rim Fire Recovery efforts? Please contact:
Rim Fire Recovery Information (209) 432-3709.